

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
PERMITS IN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS
APRIL 25, 2016
NRD-2016-0028
718 to 723 E. 6th Street
Sixth Street

PROPOSAL

Construct an arch over 6th Street at the east end of the historic district (east end of the 700 block) as a gateway into the historic and entertainment district from I-35.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The arch will be constructed in city right-of-way. The proposed arch will have red brick posts on a limestone base and will have a corbel of Austin common brick with red brick dentils and a cut limestone cap. The posts will have a medallion accent of red brick set on end. The top of each post will be crowned with a set of 4 lantern-style lights. Bridging the street will be a steel truss with "SIX STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT" in 2-foot tall stand up letters, that will attach to the posts above the limestone cap. The limestone base will be 4 feet tall; the brick posts with their limestone caps will be 11 feet tall (above the 4-foot bases). The top of the truss will be 25 feet above the street; the top of the letters will be 26 feet, 8 inches above the street. The letters will be constructed of acrylic, and will be internally lit with LED lights.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

The city has no design guidelines that apply to gateway arches. Gateway arches have been used successfully in other cities, such as the Fort Worth Stockyards, Galveston, Beaumont, and other tourist destinations. General design principles emphasize compatibility with the character of the historic district in materials, size, and scale. The applicants met with the Certificate of Appropriateness Review Committee on several occasions on this project, and the proposed design reflects the input and suggestions of the committee members over time.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve as proposed with the recommendation that the letters be indirectly, or halo-lit rather than internally lit, in conformance with the Sixth Street Sign Guidelines, which prohibit internally-lit plastic sign cabinets. The arch will be located at the east end of the historic district, and will serve as a gateway to the district from the freeway. The materials and design of the posts and arch are compatible with the materials of the contributing buildings within the district, and the size of the arch does not overshadow the adjacent buildings on the south side of the street (the north side is a parking lot).

LOCATION MAP

